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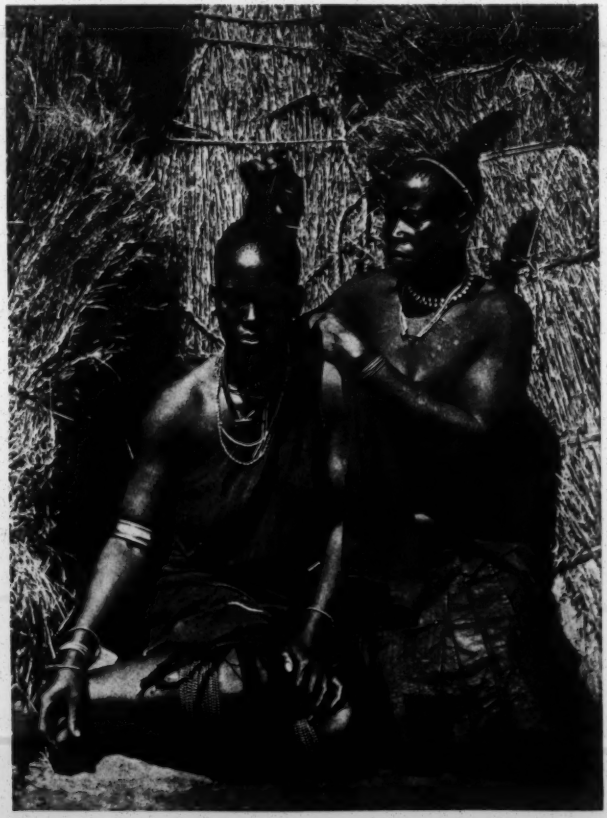

A PROSPECTIVE BRIDE IN NATAL (Bulletin No. 3) ACQUIRES THE "STEEPLE LOOK," THE APPROVED ZULU HAIRDO

Bulletin No. 1, March 14, 1949

Nations Talk Defense at Fontainebleau

THE "House of Centuries," as Napoleon once called it, is making a comeback in history as headquarters for defense consultations among members of Europe's Western Union.

Napoleon picked an apt name for the old French chateau of Fontainebleau. The massive stone structure now being renovated for its new role in world affairs has been linked with the lives of French kings for more than 800 years.

Marie Antoinette Danced There

About 35 miles from Paris, surrounded by a magnificent forest, the Fontainebleau palace grew out of a 12th-century fortress. Louis VII and Louis IX (Saint Louis) made early additions and alterations. Ambitious Francis I, in the 1500's, imported Italian artists to rebuild the chateau into a many-winged Renaissance palace.

Most of the kings of France left their mark on Fontainebleau. Four were born there. And its ballroom of Henry II knew the dancing feet of Marie Antoinette.

It is with Napoleon, however, that most of Fontainebleau's dramatic memories are associated, just as the "little Corsican" is brought to mind by countless landmarks in the Paris region (illustration, next page). The French emperor made the chateau his favorite residence. By that time it contained hundreds of lavishly furnished apartments, among them the royal suite. Also, it included sumptuous quarters for the nobility and their retinues of servants.

There Napoleon and the Empress Josephine lived, and there the annulment was announced that left the emperor free to marry Marie Louise, an Austrian princess.

Kept as Museum

At the peak of his power, Napoleon imprisoned the captured Pope Pius VII at Fontainebleau. Two years later, in April, 1814, he signed away his throne in the palace's "Abdication Room." In the courtyard, afterward known as the Court of Farewells, he made his parting address to his old guardsmen before leaving for the first exile on the Mediterranean island of Elba.

Most of the Fontainebleau decorations and furnishings were kept as they were, as museum pieces for modern visitors to see. Original carpets, pictures, furniture, and tapestries recalled the changing periods of the House of Centuries, including such mementos of the personal history of the great as the blue and gold cradle of Marie Louise's son, and the toilet articles used by Napoleon at Elba and St. Helena, south Atlantic island scene of his second, and final, exile.

Only now, with the need for space to accommodate the representatives of the Western Union nations—Great Britain, France, Belgium, the Nether-

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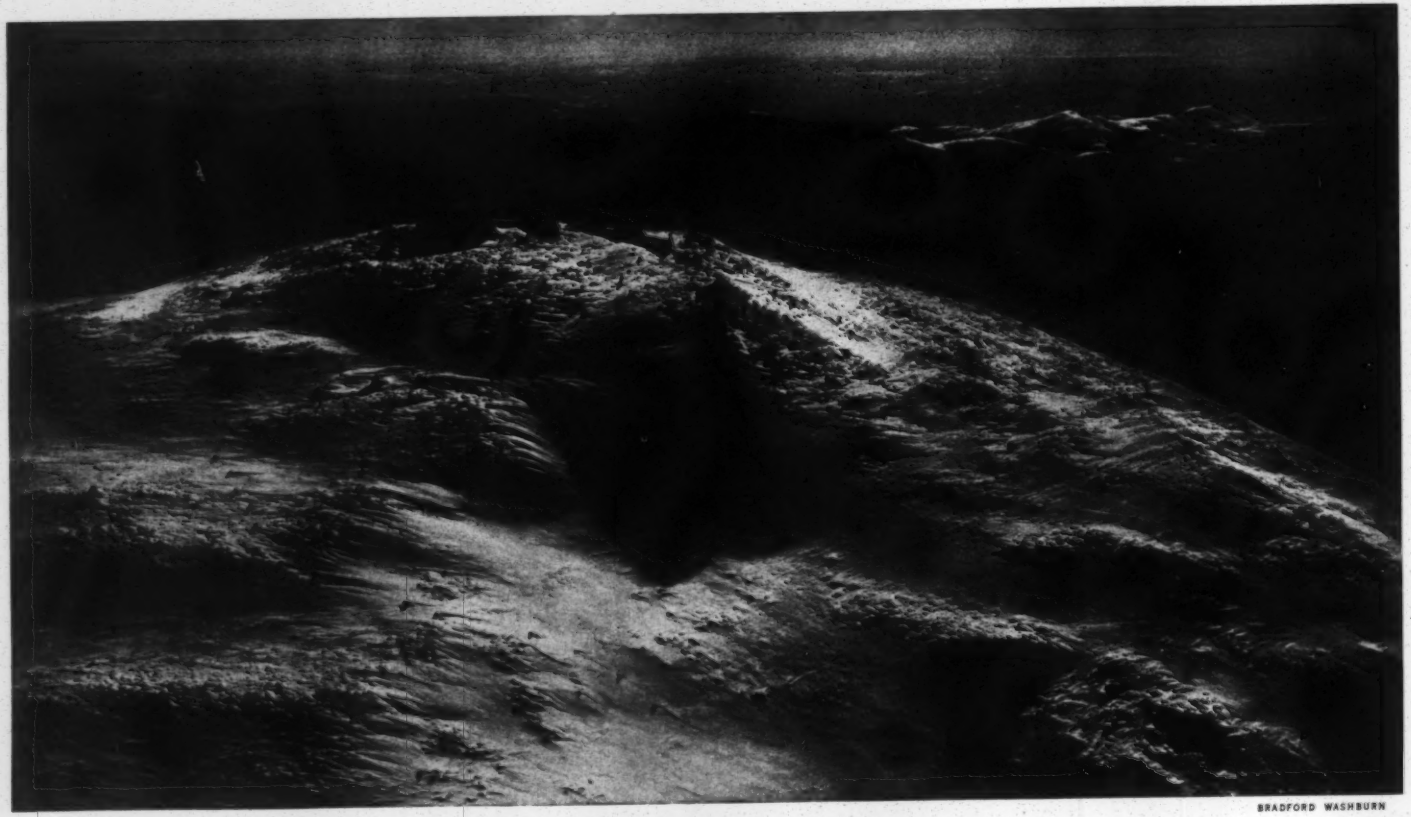

BRADFORD WASHBURN

A PILOT'S-EYE VIEW OF MT. WASHINGTON (Bulletin No. 2) IS A STUDY IN LIGHT AND SHADE

On the vast expanse of wind-carved snow that frosts Mt. Washington, hotels and weather station look like toy buildings set on a child's play-world. Even in winter the monarch of the White Mountains is not deserted by visitors. Several hundred hardy hikers climb on snowshoes to its rugged summit. The line of small dots (left) are cairns—piles of stones—marking a trail up from timberline. Wildcat Mountain, looming beyond, is actually 1,873 feet lower than Mt. Washington.

Bulletin No. 2, March 14, 1949

Icy Mt. Washington Tests WAC Winter Wear

MOUNT Washington, where Uncle Sam's WACs have been testing the Army's new arctic clothing of nylon and spun glass, is a tough proving ground. This is not the first time trials of this type have been made there. In 1945 this White Mountain peak was a laboratory for experiments with wearing apparel for Army nurses.

On the New Hampshire giant, highest mountain in New England, temperatures may drop to nearly 50 degrees below zero, Fahrenheit.

A Field for Sports and Studies

An average of 208 inches of snow falls annually. It sometimes piles up drifts 30 feet high, covering familiar landmarks, roads, and shelters. Mt. Washington's summit (illustration, inside cover) is covered with snow for at least eight months of the year. Freezing fog, ice-sheathed rocks, and avalanches are frequent dangers. High winds have been known to reach the world-record force of 231 miles an hour.

On the other hand, there is a friendly side to "Misery Hill," as the mountain has been dubbed by its severest critics. A playground for summer and winter sportsmen, Mt. Washington offers valuable field trips for scientists. Geologists are interested in its ancient rocks, and botanists study its vegetation which varies greatly with the altitude.

In a storm-battered cabin atop the mountain (illustration, next page), weather men probe into nature's secrets. There also airplane technicians study the extreme wind and ice-forming conditions which make flying hazardous.

In addition to the WAC experiments in the current "Operation Blizzard"—in which the nylon trousers and jackets were approved for comfort—Army men are reported to be testing various kinds of tents, snowshoes, and skis.

The thousands of visitors who annually flock to Mt. Washington reach the 6,288-foot summit on foot, by automobile, and by cog railway. As they have a choice of many trails, vacationists can make the trip as easy or as hard as they wish. The most ambitious party was one of three men who ascended the mountain four times within 13 hours. They first hiked up, then drove by automobile, then flew, and finally took the cog railway.

First Ascent Three Centuries Ago

Mt. Washington's cog railway was the first in the world. Completed in 1869, it baffled the "experts" of the time who had said the job couldn't be done. A carriage road had already been built. This is now an automobile highway extending to the summit. In 1899, a pioneer motorist made the first automobile trip to the top.

John Winthrop, governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony, recorded in his journal the first known ascent of Mt. Washington. This was accomplished in 1642 by an Irishman named Darby Field, with two Indian guides.

From this and other early trips came fabulous tales that bunches of

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lands, and Luxembourg—are there reports of rooms being cleared out, new lights installed, and a telephone exchange invading such historic precincts as the wing of Henry IV.

In the preservation of the palace for tourists, students, and now the defense planners of Western Union, Americans have played an important part. During the 1920's, large donations of Rockefeller funds helped rebuild and repair the building's crumbling walls and roofs, and restore its art objects.

NOTE: Fontainebleau is shown on the National Geographic Society's map of Europe and the Near East. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For additional information about France in the region of Fontainebleau, see "Paris Lives Again," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1946; "Americans Help Liberated Europe Live Again," June, 1945; "Normandy's Made-in-England Harbors," May, 1945 *; "Paris Freed" and "Seeing Paris on a 48-Hour Pass" (12 color photographs), April, 1945*; "Normandy and Brittany in Brighter Days" (21 color photographs), August, 1943; and "France Farms as War Wages," February, 1940. *(Issues marked with an asterisk are included on a special list of Magazines available to teachers in packets of ten for $1.00.)*

MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

STARTED IN 1806 TO GLORIFY NAPOLEON'S ALL-CONQUERING ARMY, THIS PARISIAN TEMPLE BECAME THE MADELEINE—DEDICATED TO MARY MAGDALENE, FAITHFUL FOLLOWER OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Bulletin No. 3, March 14, 1949

Natal's Indians and Zulus Renew Rioting

RECENT renewal of rioting in Durban, Union of South Africa, between Zulus and Indians again reminds the world of the tangled racial problem in the province of Natal. The Zulus are the descendants of the aboriginal owners of the region. The Indians are immigrants and descendants of immigrants from the Asian subcontinent.

The problems of the South African Indians have been presented to the United Nations by the Dominion of India. Discrimination against the largest Asian minority group in Africa is charged.

European Minority Ten Times as Large as Indian

There are about 250,000 Indians (illustration, next page) in the Union of South Africa. This figure, while comparatively sizable, is less than one-fortieth of the entire population of the union, which was estimated in 1944 at about 11,000,000.

South Africa also contains Africa's largest European population. Totaling some 2,300,000, it is nearly ten times the size of the Indian group. The Europeans have not been involved in the bloody rioting which has killed scores and destroyed untold property.

More than four-fifths of the union's Indians were born in Africa and thus are nationals. Nearly all live in the coastal province of Natal, where Europeans outnumber the Indians only slightly. The rest are scattered throughout the British dominion's other three provinces—the Cape of Good Hope, the Orange Free State, and the Transvaal.

Indian immigration began in 1860 in what was then the British Crown Colony of Natal. Imported as contract laborers for Natal's sugar plantations, they served a term of five years, with a choice after that of renewing the contract, of returning to India, or of remaining in South Africa as free settlers.

Between 1870 and 1891, free land grants were made to formerly indentured Indians who wished to make Natal their home.

Indenture System for Indians Ended

Meanwhile, additional Indians were being admitted to Natal and the three neighboring states which, in 1910, formed the Union of South Africa. As economic and social pressures increased, new laws were passed, differing from state to state, but in general restricting Indian immigration, trade, ownership of property, and other privileges.

In 1911 the government of India put an end to indentured immigration by stopping the recruiting of laborers bound for South Africa. But problems concerning Indian legislation in South Africa have continued to crop up from time to time.

In general, depending on local conditions, the Indians of South Africa make their living largely by agriculture. Many of them still work on Natal's sugar and tea plantations. Others operate small independent farms and market gardens, or are employed in the mines and industrial plants—sometimes alongside Zulu laborers.

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glittering diamonds and huge clusters of rubies sparkled from the mountain crags. Field would never admit that the stories he told were not true, although no one ever found any jewels on the mountain.

As the fantastic legends faded, people began to appreciate the mountain's value as a vacation spot. The slopes of Mt. Washington became a favorite skiing ground after the Norwegians introduced the sport to the United States in the 1880's. In the past 20 years the pastime has become so popular that all during the long New England winter and spring snow trains carry thousands of city-dwellers to ski on Mt. Washington and nearby White Mountain grades.

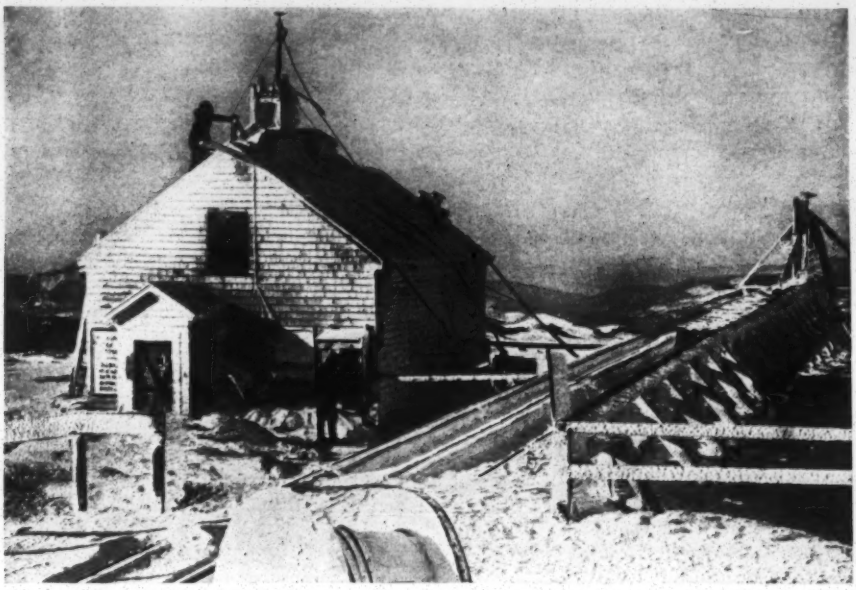
In Tuckerman Ravine, the mile-long gash on Mt. Washington, snow drifts sometimes linger into June and transform the winter sport into a summer one.

Among the many well-known people who have ascended Mt. Washington are Daniel Webster, Nathaniel Hawthorne, General Grant, and P. T. Barnum, who called the mountain's scenery "the second-greatest show on earth."

NOTE: Mt. Washington may be located and its trails traced on the Society's map of The White Mountains of New Hampshire.

For additional information, see "From Notch to Notch in the White Mountains," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for July, 1937; "New England Ski Trails," November, 1936; and "New Hampshire, the Granite State," September, 1931.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, October 29, 1945, "Mt. Washington Tests Army Nurse Apparel."



HAROLD ORNE

CHAINED TO ITS POST ATOP MT. WASHINGTON, THIS WEATHER STATION IS AN ALL-YEAR SENTRY

To hold it secure in the gales that sweep Mt. Washington, this snow-blanketed building is chained to the rocky ground. The anemometer, which projects from the roof ridge to measure the velocity of the wind, is heated electrically to keep it ice free. The tracks of the cog railway up the mountain end at the right of the weather station.

Gold-Rush Ghost Towns Continue Open House

CALIFORNIA'S Gold Centennial celebration, begun in 1948, continues through 1949. A stream of tourists still pours into the towns that sprang up almost overnight during the gold-rush era. These have put on a revival to mark their hundredth birthday.

Interest centers, of course, on relics of boom and bust in the Mother Lode country of northern California. From 10 to 12 miles wide, this almost legendary strip extends from Placerville to Sonora. In the 1850's and '60's virtually every little gulch from Downieville south to Sonora teemed with gold seekers.

Modern Buildings Outnumber Old in Surviving Towns

Today ghost towns by the score, in varying stages of preservation, dot this region, as well as near-by mining areas of Nevada and Idaho (illustration, next page). Some of them are only part ghost.

Towns on good highways, like Placerville, San Andreas, Angels Camp, and Sonora, show their permanence by the fact that modern homes and shops outnumber gold-rush landmarks. Dry Diggins and Hangtown were Placerville's earlier names.

Typical ghost towns, with some well-preserved buildings, are Columbia, Cherokee, Hornitos, and Volcano. Columbia, starting in 1848 as Hildreths Diggins, became known as American Camp. Finding of a large nugget in 1850 launched its rapid rise to fame. The story goes that Columbia's population jumped from 5 men to 6,000 in six weeks. Within four years it had become California's second city, with 35,000 people. Sacramento beat it by two votes for the honor of becoming capital of the new state. Columbia's present population, about one for each 100 who lived there in 1854, prospers on the lumber and quarry industries.

In 1945 California passed a law making Columbia part of a new state park and providing for the restoration of gold-rush buildings. Public spirited citizens had seen to it that none of the relics of the town's romantic past had been destroyed. Included among the historic landmarks is one of the first schoolhouses built in California.

Nevada City a Mushroom Town

Another center of attraction is Coloma itself. There the frenzied rush started when John W. Marshall, in 1848, picked up a small nugget in the tailrace of Sutter's Mill. Snowballing to a community of 13 hotels and 10,000 miners, it was but one of a cluster of similar camp towns, some of which have long since disappeared completely.

Nevada City, like Rome, was built on seven hills—not in a day, but almost. It had high-stake gambling houses, and the "fanciest bar in California." Georgetown, first called Growlersburg, had almost 10,000 soldiers of fortune in 1852 when fire destroyed it. It rose quickly from its ashes. Fires were fairly common in gold-rush communities. Collection of insurance was sometimes suspected of being the motive.

Such town names as You Bet, Grizzly Flats, and Whisky Slide prove

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Indians in merchandising range from itinerant hawkers to managers and owners of specialty shops and big city stores.

Natal, including the 10,000-square-mile Zululand where the Zulus still live in tribal style (illustration, cover), is slightly smaller than Indiana. The Zulus of Durban, however, pursue the ordinary occupations of civilized life. The Zulu ricksha boy, resplendent in furred and beaded tunic and four-foot headdress of horns and feathers, is one of the sights of the city.

NOTE: Natal may be located on the Society's map of Africa.

For additional information, see "Busy Corner—the Cape of Good Hope," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for August, 1942 *; and "Under the South African Union," April, 1931.

DE COU FROM GALLOWAY

TRANSPLANTED TO AFRICA, A HINDU FESTIVAL LOOKS MUCH THE SAME AS IN ITS NATIVE INDIA

Near Durban, the port and largest city of Natal, great bulb-eyed figures glide along in a procession. In Natal, the Hindu religion has more adherents than any other. The large number of Moslems is also a reflection of the great Indian minority in the South African province.

Geographic Oddities and Briefs

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday are inhabited granite islands in Torres Strait between Australia and New Guinea. Captain James Cook, voyaging there in 1770, named them according to the days of their discovery.

Afghan tribesmen are fond of long-stemmed tobacco pipes, but seldom carry them in their wanderings. Instead, they mold a new pipe for each smoke from the mud at their feet. They shape the bowl with their thumbs and ream the stem with a stiff straw in about the time it takes an American to roll a cigarette.

Madagascar's pitcher plant is a shrub four feet high, bearing jug-shaped, water-filled pitchers in which it traps and digests unwary insects. The traveler's tree, native of the same island, is a palm often 100 feet high which stores water for the thirsty. At the tap of a spear, out gushes a quart of pure water.

Air Travel Brings Remote Majorca Closer

FLIGHT schedules, always improving and expanding, are touching one by one the world's islands of mystery, romance, and seclusion. Now Majorca (Mallorca), long a popular refuge for Europeans who reached it by boat, is easily accessible to air-minded Americans traveling on established lines.

Rising green above the blue Mediterranean, Majorca is southeast of Barcelona, Spain—overnight by boat, an hour by plane. It is the largest of the five Balearic Islands (Islas Baleares) of Spain. Warm winds from Africa give the "Pearl of the Mediterranean" a mild winter climate, making December swimming possible.

Smaller than Delaware

Majorca's beaches, mountains, climate, and its sense of remoteness for years have attracted Spanish resorters, English and European vacationists, and writers and artists from all over the world. Frédéric Chopin, the Polish composer, and George Sand, the French novelist and feminist, were among the first representatives of the art world to seek sun, solitude, and rest on Majorca. Chopin wrote some of his finest music while living at Valldemosa in a 14th-century Moorish-type palace which at one time was a Carthusian monastery.

Bigger than Rhode Island but smaller than Delaware, Majorca is roughly diamond-shaped, measuring about 45 by 58 miles. Its northwest coast is rocky, with mountains rising almost to 5,000 feet. Other coasts are sloping and low.

Nearly everyone farms. In the precipitous northwest, terraces save every possible square foot for agriculture (illustration, next page). There, and on the level and gently rolling areas, the island's original pine forests largely have been replaced by olive groves, almond trees, and grape vines. Fields of wheat and flax and orchards of figs and oranges also cover considerable acreage. The soil is extremely fertile, but irrigation is necessary.

Palma Is Largest City

Majorcans are friendly people. They go about their tasks in a calm, purposeful way which reflects the peace and simplicity of their life. They live in ancient stone houses and drive flocks along narrow, winding, rock-fenced roads. The countryside is dotted with windmills that Don Quixote might have tilted with had he visited the island. The mills pump water, the island's sole scarcity among the simple necessities of life. More often, blindfold mules, trudging round and round, provide the power for bringing the water to the surface.

Palma, capital of the Balearic Islands, is the largest city on Majorca. With 115,000 inhabitants, it ranks 14th in all Spain. Its waterfront and downtown area are dominated by the Church of San Francisco, an immense Gothic structure begun in the 13th century. The city bears the traces of a few of its many conquerors. Its architecture is varied, but the people are mostly of Catalan type (similar to Barcelonans), with a Moorish admixture.

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what a man's world California then was. Paradise, legend has it, was originally Pair o' Dice.

In the 1860's and '70's, slow-stalking camels—an experiment in transportation—lent an Oriental touch as bearers of freight to new gold towns. Drawing prospectors from Sonora and Columbia, Monoville, on the California-Nevada border, became a camp of 700 men in a matter of days. Aurora, Hamilton, and Treasure City, Nevada, were brief sensations, with several thousand gold seekers, then quickly faded to ghost towns.

At Virginia City, Nevada, in the 1870's, some 30,000 grubbed in the most famous diggings of the Comstock Lode. Fewer than 1,000 people live there today, but plans are well advanced for restoring the ghost town's main street to its 1870 appearance.

After the turn of the century, Tonopah, Goldfield, Rhyolite, and Bullfrog in southern Nevada rocketed as boom centers of silver and gold. They share the stage in the centennial ghost-town scene of the West.

NOTE: The Society's maps of The Southwestern United States and Northwestern United States show many mining towns, with historical notes. Surviving and revived communities may also be located on the map of The United States of America.

For further information, see "Nevada, Desert Treasure House," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for January, 1946 *; "California's Coastal Redwood Realm," February, 1939 *; "Down Idaho's River of No Return," July, 1936; and "Northern California at Work," March, 1936; and in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, January 26, 1948, see "California Observes Gold Centennial."

MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

WARREN, WITH ITS CATLIKE SUCCESSION OF LIVES, LOOKS TOO TYPICAL TO BE TRUE

This ghost town in the Salmon River Mountains of Idaho "died" in the 1870's, came to life a decade later, and died again early in the present century. It is one of the numerous ghost towns which revived in the depression period of the 1930's. Warren looks so much like the set for a typical Hollywood "western" that it is hard to believe people really live and work there. Only the gasoline pumps in front of the meat market (right) would bar the use of the town "as is" for a motion-picture set. The railroad is 30 miles away but radio ties Warren to the outside world and automobiles roll over the mountain roads with a speed which would bewilder the miners of the covered-wagon days of Warren's youth.

Visitors stay in one of Palma's many hotels, or go inland to such charming valley towns as Valldemosa and Sóller, or cross the island to the Alcudia-Pollensa region, where there is a luxury hotel. Many make excursions to Manacor and Artá to see two of Europe's most spectacular limestone caves. Near Manacor, the village of Petra has erected a statue to its illustrious native son, Father Junípero Serra, the Franciscan friar who founded the missions in California—including one which grew into the present city of San Francisco.

In January and February the almond trees are in bloom, seeming to cover the island with banks of white clouds.

NOTE: The Balearic Islands are shown on the Society's map of Central Europe and the Mediterranean.

For additional information, see "The Balearics, Island Sisters of the Mediterranean," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for August, 1928; and "Keeping House in Majorca," April, 1924.

TRUYOL

MAJORCA'S TERRACES UTILIZE HILLY LAND, CONSERVE WATER, AND CATCH THE SUN

Bañalbufar, a stone village on the northwest coast of the Mediterranean island, is set among the intricate terrace-work that the townspeople have built up through the centuries. At lower left stands one of the vast slope's many irrigating cisterns. Main crops here are fruit and vegetables.